



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

All Department/District Heads

At its meeting held November 16, 2004, the Board took the following action:

62-D

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“Every County department is responsible for the provision of public services consistent with the policies established by the Board of Supervisors. As the duly elected officials of the County, it is incumbent upon the Board to deliberate and decide how to allocate resources and deliver services to the public in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Absent critical circumstances, it is each department’s duty to execute delivery of these services in accordance with approved policies. And, when circumstances dictate a change in service level or delivery, it is imperative that the Board be notified. It is not within an individual department’s discretion to deviate from approved policies without first consulting, or in cases where the service change is required to protect the health, welfare or safety of the public notifying, the Board of Supervisors about any major changes.

“Recently, it was brought to my attention, by the press, that in recent weeks, the Department of Health Services’ (DHS) Emergency Medical Services Agency has received an increase in requests to place the trauma unit at MLK/Drew Medical Center on diversion. As such, over the past several weeks, that unit has been placed on diversion significantly more than has historically been the case. Understandably, there will be times when a department must take immediate action in order to effectively continue the delivery of public services. However, this Board must be kept abreast of all major changes in operations, service provision or service levels by any County department. It is unacceptable for any department to make major changes or, as occurred in the case of DHS, experience circumstances which result in major shifts in service levels without such notification.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried (Supervisor Molina being absent), the Board instructed all County Department/District Heads to immediately notify the Board whenever they anticipate or execute any major changes in the delivery of public services or experience conditions which result in service level changes such as an increase or decrease in service delivery by greater than 20%, a relocation of services to new facilities, substantial personnel changes, or any other action of major significance.

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